

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants have newly added claims 12-37. In the Office Action, the Examiner withdraws non-elected claims 4-8 from further consideration.¹ Examined claims 1-3 and 9-11 are rejected. Specifically:

claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miyazaki et al., Japanese Patent No. 11-238352 (hereinafter "Miyazaki");

claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tohjo et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,845,860 (hereinafter "Tohjo"); and

claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyazaki, as applied to claims 1-3, and further in view of Hisagen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,047,232 (hereinafter "Hisagen").

Claims 1-3

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miyazaki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that Miyazaki fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1-3.

For example, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that "said releasing member is sized so that with part of said releasing member inserted into a center opening of said reel, and two of said three leg portions positioned near said through holes, the remaining one leg portion is dropped and inserted within the center opening of said reel". Miyazaki fails to disclose or suggest a releasing

¹ Based on Applicants' Response to Election of Species Requirement filed on August 6, 2003.

member being sized such that it can be inserted into a center opening of the reel as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, Miyazaki relates to preventing incomplete unlocking and does not resolve the various exemplary problems described in Applicants' disclosure. For example and not by way of limitation, as noted in Applicants' Specification, when the size of the center opening in the reel is smaller than that of a portion of the cartridge case in which the releasing member is housed, and the releasing member cannot be assembled in a horizontal posture, the assembly operation becomes complicated and troublesome and the operation of forcibly pushing the releasing member is required (page 3, lines 11-17).

For at least these exemplary reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Miyazaki. As such, claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by Miyazaki, at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the additional features recited therein.

For example, claim 2 recites that "the triangular plate portion of said releasing member has a holding portion so that it can be positioned and held by an assembling tool". Applicants submit that the alleged triangular plate portion 18 does not have a holding portion that allows it to be positioned and held by an assembling tool. Indeed, Applicants note that Miyazaki neither discloses nor suggests the use of any assembling tool, let alone with respect to the triangular plate portion.

Furthermore, claims 3 recites that "said holding portion is constructed of a bore penetrating the plate portion of said releasing member, said bore being formed obliquely toward a sliding portion of said releasing member that contacts said retraining member". Miyazaki fails

to disclose or suggest any bore formed obliquely toward a sliding portion of said releasing member, as illustrated in Applicants' Fig. 3.

Claim 11

Claim 11 stands rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tohjo. Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, "leader tape firmly attached at one end thereof to a leading end of said magnetic tape" and "a leader member, firmly attached to the other end of said leader tape, for pulling out said magnetic tape to a magnetic recording-reproducing unit". The Examiner's position is that the leader tape 10, magnetic tape 20 and splicing tape 30 of Tohjo correspond to the leader member, magnetic tape and leader tape, respectively, as recited in claim 11.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. Tohjo describes a magnetic tape 20 and a leader tape 10 integrally connected together, at a continuous portion 40 including a connecting portion 11 of the leader tape 10, by splicing tape 30 (Tohjo: Abstract; and Figs. 2-3). Contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the splicing tape 30 of Tohjo is not a leader tape, 10 is, and Tohjo fails to disclose or suggest a leader member attached to the leader tape, as recited in claim 11.

For at least these exemplary reasons, Applicants submit that claim 11 is not anticipated by Tohjo.

Claims 9 and 10

Claim 9 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyazaki, as applied to claims 1-3, and further in view of Hisagen. Claim 10 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyazaki, as applied to claims 1-3, and further in view of Hisagen. Solely to advance prosecution for particular embodiments of the invention, Applicants

have amended claims 9 and 10 to include a feature whereby the leader tape has a base material having a lengthwise elastic modulus of 630 kg/mm^2 or less, and a widthwise elastic modulus of 580 kg/mm^2 or less, and the thickness of the leader tape is less than or equal to five times the thickness of the magnetic tape. Applicants submit that these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the Examiner's cited art. In addition, claim 10 recites that "said leader tape is constructed of sheet form metal tape having a specific surface resistance of $1 \times 10^{13} \Omega / 2.54 \text{ cm}^2$ or less". Applicants submit that Miyazaki and Hisagen (alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest a leader tape constructed of sheet form metal tape. Instead, Hisagen describes a leader tape which consists of a nonmagnetic base and a coating layer formed thereon (Hisagen: col. 1, lines 48-53). Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 9 and 10 are allowable.

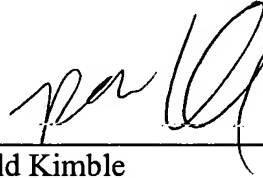
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application 10/019,678

Attorney Docket No. Q67879

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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